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Congress of the United States
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DEAN, NEW JERSEY DELEGATION

May 10, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
U.S. Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20520-0099

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

Congratulations again on your recent nomination and confirmation as the nation's 70th Secretary of State. I look forward to working with you on the many critical foreign policy matters that face our Nation.

When I was first elected in 1980, one of President Ronald Reagan's most pressing challenges was the resolution of the American hostage crisis in Iran. He moved swiftly and decisively and we all gave thanks for their return. Since that time, and as a senior member of the Foreign Affairs committee, I have worked with many other families to free their relatives held by Iran. Sadly, the Iranian regime continues its reprehensible practice of holding innocent Americans for ransom.

Today, I write to underscore the desperate need for top level diplomatic support of the case of a resident of my home county of Mercer in New Jersey, Xiyue Wang. Mr. Wang, a U.S. citizen and doctoral candidate at Princeton University, has been held hostage in Iran since August 2016. He is serving a 10-year jail sentence in Iran's notorious Evin prison on fabricated charges. Mr. Wang was seized while conducting historical research with the Iranian Government's permission and has been separated from his loving wife, Hua Qu, and their toddler son, for nearly two years. Sadly, the boy, now four, has a fading recollection of his father. And at this very moment Mr. Wang languishes in a cold, dark and unsanitary cell and is forced to endure harsh interrogations. His wife, who speaks to him on the phone when allowed, reports he is losing hope.

Prior to your arrival at State, the department has been in contact with Ms. Qu, including a meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Joan Polaschik. But she is disappointed that her husband remains in prison after nearly two years. We must exhaust all avenues to secure Mr. Wang's prompt release and reunite this family.

I met with his wife personally in April, and am considering a future congressional hearing

Co-Chairman of the following Congressional Member Organizations: Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease • Bi-Partisan Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism
Lyme Disease Caucus • Coalition for Autism Research and Education • Bi-Partisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus • Bosnia Caucus • Poland Caucus
Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs • Congressional Caucus on Human Trafficking • Vietnam Caucus • Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition

about Mr. Wang's plight. I am requesting to meet with you, along with Ms. Qu, at your earliest convenience, to discuss the case. Please feel free to call me personally, or have your staff contact Everett Price in my office at (202) 225-3955 or everett.price@mail.house.gov to arrange a meeting.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress